

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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EB-07 AGRE-00 /083 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:EMARKS:GJB
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AFR/CAWA (AID) (INFO)
-----074742 241340Z /44
R 241311Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147251

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, E A I D

SUBJECT: BELGIAN INTEREST IN MARSHALL PLAN FOR ZAIRE

REF: PARIS 17472

1. GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICER SCHMITTZER CALLED ON DEPT JUNE 21
TO INQUIRE ABOUT USG ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROPOSED MARSHALL
PLAN FOR ZAIRE. SCHMITTZER SAID HIS INQUIRY STEMMED FROM
RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN NEW BELGIAN FONMINISTER
SIMONET AND FRG AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM, IN WHICH SIMONET
EXPLAINED BELGIAN INTEREST IN FOSTERING THE PROPOSED
MARSHALL PLAN FOR ZAIRE AND ASKED ABOUT GERMAN REACTION.
ACCORDING TO SCHMITTZER, BONN IS INTERESTED IN A GENERAL
WAY, BUT FULL PARTICIPATION WILL DEPEND UPON FURTHER
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DETAILS, PARTICIPATION BY OTHER INTERESTED WESTERN
COUNTRIES AND JAPAN, AND SOME FORM OF EFFECTIVE (IF
UNOBSTRUSIVE) DONOR INFLUENCE OVER DISBURSEMENT OF AID
FUNDS.

2. DEPTOFF MADE NO SPECIFIC COMMENT ABOUT PROPOSED
MULTILATERAL AID PLAN FOR ZAIRE, SAYING THAT SIMONET HAD

NOT YET RAISED SUBJECT WITH OUR EMBASSY (AS HE TOLD GERMANS HE WOULD DO.) DEPTOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT IN GENERAL WAY IN CONTEXT OF USG INTEREST IN MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, AND SPECIFICALLY IN CONTEXT OF RECENT IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING ON AID TO ZAIRE (ABOUT WHICH SCHMITTZER HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED). DEPTOFF POINTED OUT THAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING, ZAIRE COMMITMENTS TO IMF STABILIZATION PROGRAM AND TO THE IBRD RECOMMENDED CONCENTRATION ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, AND CREATION OF CG WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE ALREADY CONSTITUTED A FORM OF MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH ZAIRE. THEREFORE ANY PROPOSAL FOR A MARSHALL PLAN FOR ZAIRE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THAT CONTEXT. FINALLY, DEPTOFF REMINDED SCHMITTZER THAT USG AID LEVELS WILL DEPEND ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

3. COMMENT: BELGIAN INTEREST IN TAKING LEAD IN ORGANIZING ASSISTANCE FOR ZAIRE NOT SUPRISING GIVEN PRO-ZAIRE AND PRO-MOBUTU ATTITUDE OF NEW FOREIGN MINISTER AND OF HIS CHEF DE CABINET, ALFRED CAHEN, FORMER DCM OF BELGIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND LONG-TIME EXPERT ON ZAIRE WITH VERY WIDE AND INTIMATE CONNECTIONS IN ZAIRIAN SOCIETY. CHRISTOPHER

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